

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (withdrawn)

7. (currently amended) Apparatus for directing a stock worker to transfer stock items from various storage bins to containers according to a series of orders requesting desired quantities of specific stock items, wherein each storage bin contains an associated stock item, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of lights, each light associated with a bin;

at least one number display for showing a desired quantity of each stock item;

at least one container display for showing a unique container identifier associated with a selected container into which each stock item is to be placed, wherein each container is assigned a unique identifier;

a direction display; and

a computer operably ~~connected~~ coupled to the lights, the at least one number display, and the at least one container display, and the direction display, wherein the computer receives the orders for the stock items and assigns a selected container to each stock item, directs the at least one number display to show the desired quantity of each stock item, directs the at least one container display to show the unique container identifier associated with the selected container assigned to each stock item, and illuminates the light for the bin associated with the specific stock item, so that the stock worker is directed to transfer each stock item from the associated bin to the assigned container, and operates the direction display to indicate a direction of a storage bin associated with a subsequent order.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a plurality of central indicators, in which each central indicator incorporates a number display and a container display, and wherein each central indicator is associated with a section of the bins.

9. (canceled)

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, in which each central indicator further comprises a multi-purpose exception button operably connected to the computer.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, in which the lights are incorporated into bin indicators associated with the bins, each bin indicator further comprising a quitting switch operably connected to the computer and adapted to generate a pick complete signal.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising integrated bin indicators associated with the bins, each integrated bin indicator including the number display, the container display, and the light.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, in which each integrated bin indicator further comprises ~~an arrow~~ a direction display operably connected to the computer, the computer controlling each ~~arrow~~ direction display to ~~illuminate an arrow directing the stock worker to a subsequent bin~~ indicate a direction of a storage bin associated with a subsequent order.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, in which each integrated bin indicator further comprises a quitting switch operably connected to the computer and adapted to generate a pick complete signal.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, in which each integrated bin indicator further comprises a multi-purpose exception button operably connected to the computer.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 7, in which several stock workers are assigned to primary bin sections, and in which the computer directs each stock worker to pick products from bins within the assigned primary bin section.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, in which the computer may override the assigned primary bin section to direct stock workers to heavy pick areas.

18. (currently amended) Apparatus for assembling orders requesting a series of desired quantities of specific stock items, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of bins, wherein each bin holds a specific stock item;

a plurality of lights, each light having an associated bin;

a central conveyor positioned near the bins;

a plurality of containers positioned adjacent the central conveyor for temporarily holding stock items from the bins, each container having a unique identifier assigned thereto and including a dispenser operable to discharge stock items onto the central conveyor;

at least one number display for showing a desired quantity of each stock item;

at least one container display for showing the unique container identifier associated

with a selected container into which each stock item is to be placed;

a direction display for showing a direction of a storage bin associated with a subsequent pick; and

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a computer operably ~~connected~~ coupled to the container dispensers, the at least one number display, the at least one container display, the direction display, and the lights, wherein the computer receives the orders for the stock items and assigns a selected container to each stock item, directs the at least one number display to show the desired quantity of each stock item, directs the at least one container display to show the unique container identifier associated with the selected container assigned to each stock item, and illuminates the light for the bin associated with the specific stock item, so that the stock worker is directed to transfer each stock item from the associated bin to the assigned container, the computer further operating the direction display to indicate a direction of a storage bin associated with a subsequent order and controlling the container dispensers holding a complete order to discharge at substantially the same point along the central conveyor.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a plurality of central indicators, in which each central indicator incorporates a number display, a direction display, and a container display, and wherein each central indicator is associated with a section of the bins.

20. (canceled)

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, in which each central indicator further comprises a multi-purpose exception button operably connected to the computer.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, in which the lights are incorporated into bin indicators associated with the bins, each bin indicator further comprising a quitting switch operably connected to the computer and adapted to generate a pick complete signal.

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23. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising integrated bin indicators associated with the bins, each integrated bin indicator including the number display, the container display, and the light.

24. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, in which each integrated bin indicator further comprises ~~an arrow~~ a direction display operably connected to the computer, the computer controlling each ~~arrow~~ direction display to ~~illuminate an arrow directing the stock worker to a subsequent bin~~ indicate a direction of a storage bin associated with a subsequent order.

25. (original) The apparatus of claim 23, in which each integrated bin indicator further comprises a quitting switch operably connected to the computer and adapted to generate a pick complete signal.

26. (original) The apparatus of claim 23, in which each integrated bin indicator further comprises a multi-purpose exception button operably connected to the computer.

27. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, in which several stock workers are assigned to primary bin sections, and in which the computer directs each stock worker to pick products from bins within the assigned primary bin section.

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28. (original) The apparatus of claim 27, in which the computer may override the assigned primary bin section to direct stock workers to heavy pick areas.

29-36. (withdrawn)
